

4 (Twice Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric containing thermoplastic synthetic microfibers, said method comprising the steps of:

a. providing a wet sheet from a slurry containing about 0.5 to 20 % by weight of a fibrous mixture dispersed in water, said fibrous mixture comprising about 90 to 10 % by weight of thermoplastic fibers that are about 0.1 to 0.8 d mixed with about 10 to 90 % by weight of pulp fibers that are about 2 to 7 mm long;

b. placing said wet sheet on a support; and

c. subjecting said wet sheet to high velocity water jet streams of about 50 to 200 kgf/cm² to effect mechanically entangling said fibrous mixture and produce protuberances in the resulting nonwoven fabric.

Please add new claims 6 and 7 as follows:

--6. A method according to Claim 4 wherein said support has a plurality of protuberances formed on a surface thereof and the mechanical entanglement of the fibrous mixture and formation of the protuberances are performed in a common step.--

--7. A method according to Claim 4, wherein said plurality of protuberances have conical or pyramidal shapes. --